

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A flat telephone comprising:
 - a flat panel having a front surface, a rear surface and thin side edges;
 - a plurality of touch sensors adhered on the front surface of the flat panel;
 - an electronics unit recessed in the flat panel;
 - a speaker electrically connected to the electronics unit and disposed proximate the front surface of the flat panel;
 - a microphone electrically connected to the electronics unit and disposed proximate the front surface of the flat panel; and
 - a means for covering the flat panel.
2. The flat telephone as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for covering is a sleeve.
3. The flat telephone as claimed in claim 2, wherein the sleeve is made of vinyl.
4. The flat telephone as claimed in claim 1, wherein the panel is made of foam or cardboard.
5. The flat telephone as claimed in claim 2, wherein the sleeve has a decorative design.
6. The flat telephone as claimed in claim 2, wherein the sleeve has a keypad.
7. The flat telephone as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a means for mounting the flat telephone onto a wall.

8. The flat telephone as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electronics unit has a removable cover.

9. The flat telephone as claimed in claim 1, wherein the touch sensors are glued onto the front surface of the flat panel.

10. The flat telephone as claimed in claim 1, wherein the front surface of the flat panel has a printed pattern for guiding the placement of the touch sensors.

11. The flat telephone as claimed in claim 6, wherein the touch sensors correspond with the decorative design on the sleeve.

12. The flat telephone as claimed in claim 2, wherein the sleeve has an opening for accommodating the speaker.

13. The flat telephone as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electronics unit has a telephone jack for connecting a telephone line.

14. The flat telephone as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a thin board mounted onto the front surface of the panel, the thin board having openings which accommodate the speaker and touch sensors.

15. The flat telephone as claimed in claim 1, wherein the speaker is housed inside the electronics unit.

16. The flat telephone as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a collar for supporting the microphone on the front surface of the panel, the collar having a flange which rests on the front surface of the panel, a post which extends down from the flange into an opening in the panel and a groove disposed along adjacent areas of the flange and post for accommodating a wire.

17. The flat telephone as claimed in claim 1, wherein the touch sensors are arranged in different bundles electrically connected to the electronics unit.

18. A flat telephone comprising:

- a flat panel having a front surface, a rear surface and thin side edges;

- a plurality of touch sensors adhered on the front surface of the flat panel;

- an electronics unit recessed in the flat panel;

- a speaker electrically connected to the electronics unit and disposed proximate the front surface of the flat panel;

- a microphone electrically connected to the electronics unit and disposed proximate the front surface of the flat panel;

- a means for hanging the flat telephone on the wall; and

- a sleeve which covers the flat panel, the sleeve having a keypad design and a decorative design.

19. The flat telephone as claimed in claim 18, wherein the touch sensors correspond with the decorative design on the sleeve.

20. A flat telephone comprising:

a flat panel having a front surface, a rear surface and thin side edges;

a plurality of touch sensors adhered on the front surface of the flat panel;

an electronics unit recessed in the flat panel;

a speaker electrically connected to the electronics unit and disposed proximate the front surface of the flat panel;

a microphone electrically connected to the electronics unit and disposed proximate the front surface of the flat panel; and

a sleeve which covers the flat panel, the sleeve having a decorative design.